

## Message Text

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61  
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCV-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE\*00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 M

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 EUR-25 NIC-01 DRC-01 /166 W  
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R 191210Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3482

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, TS, US  
SUBJECT: HABIB BOURGUIBA JR. HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

1. HABIB BOURGUIBA JR, WHO RETURNED OCT 17 FROM U.S. VISIT,  
HELD LENGTHY PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING OCT 18. FOLLOWING ARE  
HIGHLIGHTS BASED ON LOCAL PRESS REPORTS.

2. HE DESCRIBED NUMEROUS CONTACTS HE HAD AND IMPRESSIONS HE  
GATHERED ON U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD MIDDLE EAST WAR. HE SAID  
PRO-ISRAELI PRESS CONTINUED TO "CONDITION" THINKING OF AMERICAN  
PUBLIC BUT THERE HAD BEEN DISCERNIBLE CHANGE SINCE WAR BEGAN,  
ADDING THERE IS PROGRESSIVE CHANGE BECAUSE OF DESTRUCTION OF  
CERTAIN MYTHS WHICH WERE FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL.

3. BOURGUIBA JR SPOKE WARMLY OF HIS VISIT TO DEPARTMENT AND  
MEETING WITH HIS OLD FRIENDS, IN PARTICULAR SECRETARY OF STATE  
KISSINGER. HE SAID ATTENTION GIVEN BY THEM TO HIS VIEWS ON  
ME SITUATION WAS FLATTERING\*. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON U.S.  
SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL WHILE AT SAME TIME SEEKING PEACE  
SETTLEMENT, BOURGUIBA JR SAID USG WAS "DUPED OVER MANY YEARS  
BY PRO-ISRAELI PROPAGANDA AND MOMENTUM OF THIS WAS STILL  
EVIDENT. HE THOUGHT RECENT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD  
HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION AND THIS COULD INFLUENCE  
ATTITUDE OF CONGRESS. HE CITED SENATOR FULBRIGHT STATEMENT

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THAT \*\*SEVENTY PER CENT OF CONGRESS WAS UNDER INFLUENCE OF

PRO-ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS".

4. ON SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO ARABS, HE SAID THIS WAS GREAT OBSESSION OF AMERICAN LEADERS AND HE IMPLIED THIS PARTLY EXPLAINED U.S. DECISION TO RESUPPLY ISRAEL.

5. ON CONTACTS WITH TUNISIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, BOURGUIBA JR DESCRIBED CONDUCT OF TWO MEMBER AS HYSTERICAL WITH REGARD TO CURRENT TUNISIAN POSITION ON WAR AND SAID THEY HAD DECLARED THEY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ASSOCIATION AND WOULD WORK FOR ITS DISSOLUTION. HE SAID HE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM OF INSULTS FROM ONE MEMBER WHICH HE ANSWERED IN MORE MODERATE TONE BY LETTER. HE SAID MOST MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION WERE WILLING LISTEN TO HIS VIEWS AND HE FORESAW NO CHANGE IN BASIC OBJECTIVES TWO ASSOCIATIONS WILL WORK TOWARD.

6. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NEED FOR CHANGE IN US-TUNISIAN RELATIONS, BOURGUIBA JR SAID THERE NO REASON FOR TUNISIA TO\* CHANGE RELATIONS BUT COULD ONLY HOPE U.S. WOULD NOW OPEN ITS EYES AND CHANGE ITS ME POLICY. COURGUIBA JR EARLIER SAID HE HAD CONFIDENCE IN U.S. SPIRIT OF AIR PLAY AND JUSTICE AND WHEN AMERICAN PEOPLE SEE HOW THEY HAVE BEEN "BRAINWASHED" BY ISRAELI PROPAGANDA THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR VIEWS.

7. COMMENT: FRIENDLY JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED CONFERENCE BELIEVE BOURGUIBA JR DID SKILLFUL JOB IN DESCRIBING MOOD IN U.S. AND ITS EFFECT ON O5D0Z\*\* H \*6 \*\*G3\*\*\*\*\*IW\*HSRAEL. HE OBVIOUSLY WAS ON SPOT TO EXPLAIN HOW TUNISIA CONTINUES GOOD RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN FACE OF OUR CURRENT ARMS"ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL, AND HIS CALL TO GIVE U.S. TIME TO OVERCOME "PRO-ISRAELI CONDITIONING" REFLECTED HIS BASICALLY PRO-AMERICAN ATTITUDES.  
SE5LYE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, TS, US, XF, IS, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB JR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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